

I own two smoke shops and am a 50 year old long time smoker. I switched to vaping products from traditional cigarettes about 10 years ago and I oppose SB702.

Enacting this ban will force my to close both of my stores, as over 60% of my business comes from flavored vapes. I employ 8 employees, their jobs are important and they do not want to loose their jobs. I pay competitive wages and provide a lot of training to ensure they do not sell to minors. We require ID of the entire party for every purchase every time, selling to a minor is an immediately fireable offense and we offer a bonus when an employee passes the under-age sting/inspection.

I listened to several testimonies from the Early Childhood and Behavioral Health committee meeting on March 4th and found there were a lot of negative and inaccurate things being blamed on the vape industry. I heard a man claim vaping causes lung and mouth cancer from synthetic nicotine. There is zero proof of that. His use of words creates an emotional trigger, regardless of the false statements.

The science is still not settled but the anecdotal evidence I hear from my adult customers is that they feel so much better, can breath so much easier after switching from smoking traditional cigarettes to vaping. The same man and others used the word epidemic, anything that is on the decline for several years (such as youth usage) would be hard to label as an epidemic.

Other testimonies were from parents claiming vaping ruined their child's life. Blaming this on an industry that is already restricted to over 21 with enforcement in place to monitor stores is shortsighted. So, it's the vaping that made the parent not pay attention to the actions of their child, or the inability for their children to make good decisions and give in to peer pressure? With that logic, we should be banning everything that might possibly be attractive and unhealthy for children. Banning an entire industry already focused on adults due to poor parental guidance and children's inability to make proper decisions is an unfair limitation to adult consumers. Why are there other adult restricted industries, such as alcohol, gambling, porn, guns, spray paint, etc that are allowed to exist? With this logic everything that might be dangerous for children should be banned....this is a major overreach!

Another testimony from a youth talked about a kid vaping in the bathroom stall next to him - again I cannot overstate that virtually all the concerns raised are actually a result of poor oversight and guidance provided to the youth. Banning an entire industry is an unfair restriction impacting adults who should have access to this option - we should enact greater penalties on the children and

adults enabling them, rather than ban an entire industry, preventing adults from using an alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes. Minors vaping is against the law, all of the testimonies I heard were people actively stating the child broke the law, and it is the adult consumers who are going to be penalized. Consider when a youth steals from a retailer, the answer, according to this logic, is to get rid of the retailer, rather than charge the youth for theft?

Just like any other crime, kids should be cited for underage possession, parents/adults providing vapes should be charged with supplying a minor. Currently it is only illegal for the retail owner to sell the vape, there is no police driven fines for kids or the adults buying for the minors. Enacting penalties like suspending driving privileges for the minors caught with a vape or monetary fines, I believe would start to solve the problem quickly.

There should also be more accountability at the employee level. Alcohol and Marijuana require licensing for employees in order to maintain their employment. Why are the employees not required to have a tobacco sales license and suffer penalties when they sell to a minor? Only holding the store owner accountable while not holding the employee, the youth and the enabling adults responsible is short sighted.

How can the only answer be banning something minors are not legally allowed to purchase? Adults who quit smoking and vape prefer the vaping to traditional cigarettes, and no one wants a tobacco flavored vape. The jobs created and tax revenue collected is a major boost to the economy, Oregon collected \$511 million in tobacco tax revenue in 2023. 60% of my business is from flavored vapes - how is the state going to deal with a 60% loss in this tax revenue?

I also believe that the revenue impacts that you are projecting are inaccurate and artificially lower than what will actually happen, should you ban flavored vapes. We sell very little traditional tobacco cigarettes or tobacco flavored vapes and most of our business is from flavored vapes. How will the state manage with what I predict to be an almost 60% drop in tobacco tax revenue? In this political and economic climate, making this decision will have far bigger negative impacts than what you are projecting.

Vape shops do not target children. The vape industry has been under fire for some time and the largest argument I heard from the testimony in March is that the industry actively targets minors, which is not true.

The whole issue is very confusing - what happened to freedom of choice and the ability to choose the products you purchase, as an adult? Kids should not vape, but banning things should not be the answer to everything kids should not

do. It seems like the weakest answer and does not address learning to educate youth and implement penalties for youth possessing vapes or attempting to buy vapes. You could require shops to confiscate IDs of minors trying to buy vapes. By not educating and preventing youth from doing things they should not is not going to help with future issues. Youth are always going to do things we don't want them to do. Banning everything does not solve the problem, it will create more.

From a freedom of personal life choices perspective, it seems hard to understand how liquor and marijuana industries are not under attack for their fruit/candy flavored items, or having attractive packaging to minors (why are adults not allowed to like bright, colorful things?) Both of these industries are far more dangerous and deadly to others when minors consume. Vaping among youth is already decreasing on its own, if we would actually create penalties for youth caught with vapes and the adults who supply them, the rate would decrease even more significantly. This ban would penalize all adults without trying to make more reasonable restrictions and penalties to prevent youth vaping first.

Prohibiting the sale of flavored vaping products will be detrimental to adult consumers, tax revenues, business owners and employees. This measure should not be passed.